



*Jeremy Travis
President*

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Dear friends:

I am thrilled by the decision of the CUNY Board of Trustees to name Karol V. Mason as the next President of John Jay College of Criminal Justice ([CUNY announcement](#)). Her credentials are simply stellar. As the Assistant Attorney General for Justice Programs in the Department of Justice, Karol earned a national reputation as a thought leader on the issues of the day in the criminal justice field. Her prior experience as a partner at Alston & Bird LLP, one of the country's leading law firms, where she specialized in public finance, and her groundbreaking election as the first African-American woman to serve as chair of a management committee, have prepared her for leadership of John Jay. Her service from 2001 to 2009 as a member of the Board of Trustees of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, her alma mater, including two years as vice chair, reflects her deep commitment to the mission of institutions of public higher education.

Of particular note is Karol's extensive national leadership on a wide variety of criminal justice reform efforts. At the direction of Attorneys General Eric Holder and Loretta Lynch, she spearheaded the DOJ reform effort in New Orleans, coordinated a federal initiative on children exposed to violence, spearheaded the cross-agency Cabinet-level task force on prisoner reentry, and directed the safety and justice reform efforts in tribal jurisdictions. She has taken a special interest in the issues of race, public trust and legitimacy in the operations of the justice system and led the effort in the Obama Administration to create the National Initiative for Community Trust and Justice. This six-city demonstration project is now housed at John Jay College and operates in cooperation with Yale Law School, the Center for Policing Equity and the Urban Institute.

In her role as Assistant Attorney General, Karol established a strong national presence that will certainly enhance the stature of John Jay College. She oversaw the operations of the National Institute of Justice and the Bureau of Justice Statistics and is therefore intimately familiar with, and respected by, the leading scholars in the criminal justice field. Through her work on policing, juvenile justice, sentencing, victim support and justice system innovation, Karol has touched virtually every national network of practitioners, policy makers and reform advocates. The John Jay community is so fortunate that the fifth President of the College brings such an impressive reputation for national leadership.

Let me add a personal note. I consider Karol a friend and colleague. We worked particularly closely on shaping the National Initiative on building community trust and justice. I know her to be a person of great intelligence, substance and depth, impressive leadership skills and a profound commitment to justice. She will be a great champion of our students, a staunch supporter of our faculty, and a compelling advocate for our mission of educating for justice. As I step off the John Jay stage, I am so pleased that the College will be in Karol's hands for the next chapter of the John Jay story. With thanks to the search committee chaired by Trustee Shorter, I commend the Board of Trustees, Chairman Thompson and Chancellor Milliken for this outstanding choice.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeremy Travis". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Jeremy Travis
President

